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INSIDE

VISA FRAUD E-MAIL TARGETS ETHIOPIANS: DON'T BE A VICTIM!

What You Need to Know about the U.S. Diversity Visa Program

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – If you receive an e-mail saying you have won the U.S. Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery -- don't believe it. That's the lesson that some Ethiopians are learning the hard way as a result of an e-mail fraud scheme that has recently resurfaced. Victims receive an e-mail that tells them they have won a U.S. Diversity Visa to immigrate to the United States. The catch? They need to rush a "clearance/acceptance fee" along with other information to a U.S. address. Sadly, the only

"winner" is the criminal who sent the e-mail. Anyone who responds to this fraudulent e-mail is just out of luck, as their wired payment only lines the pocket of the fraudsters. Applicants who have in fact won the 2006 DV Lottery will be notified by mail (not by e-mail); all fees relating to the Diversity Visa process are paid in person at the U.S. Embassy.

The United States Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa deplore this scam and the heartless way it plays on people's

hopes of legal immigration to the United States. Here is what you need to know about participating in the DV Program:

- The U.S. Diversity Visa (DV) Program was established to allow up to 55,000 visas a year for applicants in countries under-represented in U.S. immigration patterns. Ethiopia is among the participating countries.
- **No fee** is required to enter the DV Program. Only successful applicants pay

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POLITICAL, ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT TOP ZOELLICK'S AGENDA IN AFRICA

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick travels to Rwanda to attend the annual Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Summit in Kigali the week of May 31 and also will visit a refugee camp in Darfur to



Robert Zoellick
Deputy Secretary of State

assess conditions there firsthand.

Briefing journalists at the State Department in Washington May 27, Zoellick said he hopes to meet with the presidents of Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia while at the COMESA meeting, as well as with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

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VISA FRAUD E-MAIL TARGETS ETHIOPIANS: DON'T BE . . .

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- case-processing and application fees and then only after detailed communication from the U.S. Department of State. All DV fees are paid only in person at the U.S. Embassy.
- Outside agents, including those using e-mail, have no ability to expedite DV applications, help in "winning" a DV, or otherwise assist applicants at any stage in the DV process.
 - The United States Department of State has never sent an e-mail to announce diversity visa

winners and there are no plans to use e-mail for this purpose for the foreseeable future.

- Applicants selected will be notified by mail between May and July 2005.
- Persons not selected will not receive any notification. U.S. Embassies and Consulates will not be able to provide a list of successful applicants.
- Spouses and unmarried children under age 21 of successful applicants may also apply for visas to accompany or follow to join the principal applicant.

- DV-2006 visas will be issued between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006.

Full information on the Diversity Visa Program is available from the website of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, at:
<http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov>.

Questions about the DV process can be submitted by e-mail to the Embassy's Consular Section at: **consaddis@state.gov** or by telephone to 24-24-24.♦

U.S. WELCOMES AFRICAN UNION-HOSTED DONORS' CONFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA

The United States welcomes the donors' conference co-hosted by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and African Union Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 26. The meeting sends a strong message to the Sudanese parties about the international community's commitment to support the African Union as it expands its peacekeeping mission in Darfur, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in a statement issued May 26.

The United States "made a strong pledge" at the conference to "provide \$50 million to expand camps for the African Union peacekeepers and to provide logistical support. To support NATO efforts we will provide airlift for

the Rwandan contingent of the expanded force and provide training for African forces planning to deploy," the statement said.

These actions underscore the commitment of the United States to achieve peace in a unified Sudan, according to Boucher.

Following is the text of the statement:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
May 26, 2005
2005/561**

For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT BY RICHARD
BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN**

United States Welcomes African Union-Hosted Donors' Conference

The United States welcomes the African Union-hosted donors' conference that was held today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The co-hosting of this conference by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and African Union Commission Chair Alpha Oumar Konare sends a strong message to the Sudanese parties of the international community's commitment to support the African Union as it expands its peacekeeping mission throughout Darfur to end violence and hasten a peaceful resolution to the humanitarian crisis there. Charles R. Snyder, Senior Representative on Sudan, represented the United States. Secre-

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POLITICAL, ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT TOP ZOELLICK'S AGENDA . . .

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The deputy Secretary described the COMESA meeting as "another element in the Secretary's and my effort, early on in our tenure, to try to touch base with a lot of different regions."

Part of his focus at COMESA, he said, also will be on the role Rwanda is playing in the trade organization and in Darfur, where it is one of the four key African contributors to the peacekeeping force.

"The Rwandans have some of the best troops, the most reliable troops. I worked with Rwanda on a series of trade issues when I was the United States Trade Representative. So I wanted to help build those ties because they're going to be one of the major contributors."

Zoellick said he also plans to travel to Kutum Camp in the far north of Darfur to visit African Union forces there. "I'm going to see some tribal leaders and I'll see the governor of north Darfur. And then I'll come back to Khartoum to see Jan Pronk, the U.N. representative, and then have some additional meetings with [Vice President Ali Osman] Taha and probably the foreign minister."

Zoellick also said he plans to meet with John Garang, when the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) comes to Washington June 6-8.

The deputy Secretary summarized the progress that has been achieved in Sudan over the past two months, noting that the adoption of three U.N. resolutions on Sudan provided an "overall ... framework" for the process.

Zoellick said he does "feel better about the food getting in" to Darfur, citing "significant improvement" in that area, and "the commitment by the African Union to expand their forces substantially, which," he stressed, "is important to the security in Darfur."

He said he is also pleased at getting NATO and the European Union support for this effort. On the topic of violence, Zoellick said Sudanese government helicopters and gunships have been "stood down" and "stopped their offensives," but, he cautioned, "you still do have some of the friction with the militias and the Jingaweit" militias.

Zoellick said it is important that everyone work for political reconciliation in Sudan and especially in Darfur because the United States sees the situation there as "two interconnected elements that could either work positively in an upward spiral, or, if things don't go well, could lead to a downward spiral."

On one hand, he said, is the North-South Accord or Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which brought an end of sorts to a 21-year conflict, but still leaves much implementation work to be done, and, on the other, is the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

"It's not just a question of getting food for people, protecting their camps, but eventually you have to try to achieve some reconciliation on the political side between Khartoum and the various rebel groups."

Asked if he really thought the Sudanese government is trying to do all it can to achieve peace and reconciliation, Zoellick responded: "I don't know that I would say [they

are] doing all they can but I believe that the government is working towards trying to find that political solution And I think ... they see it as in their interest to do so because they see that the North-South accord offers a prospect for international aid and support, recognition"

Zoellick said one achievement has been in getting the Sudanese government to make a statement supportive of the AU expansion of peacekeeping forces in Sudan. He said it is also important that the Sudanese government be pushed to engage the rebels, which he acknowledged is not an easy task given the lack of cohesion among the rebel groups.

Zoellick cautioned, "I don't want to leave the impression ... that the Khartoum government...is one that has necessarily turned a page and ... is all sweetness and light. I mean, these are extremely tough people who ... some of them have been associated with ... terrible actions. So one isn't blind to the past

"So I'm engaged in this with ... eyes open about the nature of the people with which we're dealing If we want to try to give a chance to improve the situation in Darfur ... we need to work with the multiple parties, including the government, and make it very clear to the government that if they don't cooperate, ... that they run the risk of losing the types of things that they've started to create."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

ETHIOPIAN DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTIONS

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Thousands of Ethiopians peacefully demonstrated outside the State Department May 26 to call for full transparency in the vote counting that is taking place after the recent parliamentary elections in Ethiopia.

Carrying signs saying "Support free and fair elections in Ethiopia" and "President Bush, Secretary Rice, Ethiopians Demand Respect for Their Votes," a crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 people stood outside the State Department on a bright and sunny morning chanting for greater freedom and democracy in their country.

Several leaders of the Ethiopian community in the United States, as well as Coptic Archbishop Melke Tsadik, presented a document expressing their concerns to Anne Simon, representing the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs.

At the regular noon briefing, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher acknowledged the demonstrators and stated: "We are ourselves following very closely the developments in the Ethiopian election. The National Election Board has begun announcing results. It started on Saturday [May 21]. About 55 percent of 547 constituencies have reported, but all these results are preliminary. We don't expect official cer-

tification until June 8th. The next phases are vote counting, certification, and formation of a government."

Boucher added: "We've expressed clearly the view this needs to be done in a transparent and democratic manner. There are some international observer teams, including U.S. embassy personnel, who are monitoring the whole process through the end."



Demonstration at the Capitol

Several demonstrators told the Washington File their aim was to make the State Department aware of their fears that the Ethiopian government might skew official results of the election that they said had already seen more than 100 members of opposition parties elected to the national assembly.

A representative of the 2005 Ethiopian National Election Coordinating Task Force handed out a press release alleging that "as voting was coming to an end [in the May 15 elections], the Prime Minister declared an illegal state of

emergency" and accusing the government of muzzling the media and attacking opposition poll watchers.

Awaiting the electoral commission's final report, the statement called on the U.S. government "to support the stand by the Ethiopian people in their fight for the full realization of their rights. We ask you to support the struggle for democracy."

Former Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde praised the push by the United States for greater political inclusion in Ethiopia and explained that the demonstrations had two aims: "One, to impress on the Government of the United States, which has always insisted it is for democracy and liberty all over the world, that in Ethiopia liberty and democracy are now in jeopardy" -- with the hope that the United States would make sure "the electoral process comes to its logical conclusion."

Secondly, Wolde said, "We want the [U.S.] Government to see to it that the state of emergency, which has been imposed on the people, is lifted" so that the democratic aspirations of the Ethiopian people will be respected.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

NEW STUDY PROJECTS DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, RAIN IN SAHEL

A new analysis of Africa's past and future climate shows that the Sahel region -- which experienced catastrophic drought in the 1990s, before the rains returned -- could experience wetter monsoons for decades to come. Drought across southern Africa is projected to intensify.

According to a press release from the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Colorado, ocean warming consis-

Foundation, NCAR's primary sponsor.

The analysis draws on 60 simulations of global climate from five computer models -- developed by NCAR, NASA, NOAA, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and France's National Center for Meteorological Research -- and offers new evidence linking drought in southern Africa to the warming of the Indian Ocean.

increases, is the main factor behind the Sahel's recent swing from drought to moist conditions.

"Changes in the Indian and Atlantic oceans are causing large regional effects in Africa, and these have substantial impacts on people," said NCAR's James Hurrell. "Now we can explain these climatic effects."

A different process seems to shape rainfall in the Sahel. When surface temperatures of the sea are warmer in the South Atlantic than in the North Atlantic, it also pulls the Sahelian monsoon cycle south, depriving the region of its usual rains.

Monsoon rains, critical to life in much of Africa, shift north and south with the seasons. They normally reach the Sahel from July to September and the southern part of the continent from February into April.

This press release and images are available on NCAR's Web site (<http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases>).

Text of the NCAR press release follows:

**National Center for Atmospheric Research
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Press release, May 24, 2005**

A continent split by climate change: New study projects drought in southern Africa, rain in Sahel

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Drought destroyed the corn crop of this farmer in Lisutu, Zambia, in 2002. New analyses from NCAR and NOAA suggest that drought may intensify across southern Africa. (Photo © 2002 Richard Lord / UMCOR.)

tent with an increase in greenhouse gases seems to be a factor in these expected 21st-century changes to Africa's monsoons.

The study, conducted by researchers from NCAR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was supported by NOAA and the National Science

The new results point to a late 20th-century cooling of the North Atlantic Ocean as having been key to drought in Sahel, the semiarid southern fringe of the Sahara Desert stretching from Mauritania to Chad. The researchers believe that a subsequent transition to North Atlantic warming, partly consistent with the impact of greenhouse gas

NEW STUDY PROJECTS DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, RAIN . . .

(Continued from page 5)

BOULDER, CO -- A new analysis of Africa's past and future climate shows that the Sahel region, which experienced catastrophic drought until rains returned in the 1990s, could experience wetter monsoons for decades to come. However, drought across southern Africa is projected to intensify further. Oceanic warming consistent with an increase in greenhouse gases appears to be a factor in these expected 21st-century changes to Africa's monsoons.

James Hurrell of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) will present the findings on May 24 in New Orleans at the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union. The study, conducted with Martin Hoerling (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), was supported by NOAA and the National Science Foundation, NCAR's primary sponsor.

The analysis, which draws on 60 simulations of global climate from five computer models, provides new evidence linking drought in southern Africa to the warming of the Indian Ocean. However, it contradicts earlier studies that also connected the Sahelian drought of northern Africa to the Indian Ocean. Instead, the new results point to a late 20th-century cooling of the North Atlantic Ocean as having been key to Sahelian drought. A subsequent switch to North Atlantic warming, partly consistent with the impact of greenhouse gas increases, is the main factor behind the Sahel's re-

cent swing from drought to moist conditions, the researchers believe.

"Changes in the Indian and Atlantic oceans are causing large regional effects in Africa, and these have substantial impacts on people. Now we can explain these climatic effects," says Hurrell.

Recurrent drought since the 1970s has plagued southern Africa, including Angola, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, the nearby Indian Ocean has warmed more than 1 degree Celsius (0.6 degree Fahrenheit) since 1950. As showers and thunderstorms develop in the rising air above the warming ocean, says Hurrell, they help lead to sinking air and drought in a surrounding ring that includes southern Africa.

"In our models, the Indian Ocean shows very clear and dramatic warming into the future, which means more and more drought for southern Africa," says Hurrell. "It is consistent with what we would expect from an increase in greenhouse gases."

Hurrell and Hoerling compared model results from 1950-99 to several control runs that omitted the Indian Ocean warming. None of those runs showed the magnitude of drying that actually occurred in southern Africa. When the models did include the Indian Ocean warming, southern Africa consistently dried out. The models also project that by 2049, monsoons across southern Africa could be 10% to 20% drier than the 1950-99 average.

A different process appears to shape rainfall in the Sahel. When sea-surface temperatures are warmer in the South Atlantic than in the North, it pulls the Sahelian monsoon cycle south as well, depriving the region of its usual rains. "This was the situation during much of the latter half of the 20th century," says Hurrell. "We believe the North Atlantic Ocean cooling was natural and masked an expected greenhouse-gas warming effect."

Since 1990, the sea-surface temperature pattern has reversed, warming more rapidly in the North Atlantic than in the South. The models examined by Hurrell and Hoerling show this trend intensifying in future decades. They project that the Sahel monsoon will be some 20% to 30% wetter by 2049 compared to the 1950-99 average.

The warming of Indian Ocean waters is well beyond the range expected from natural processes. This strengthens the case that greenhouse gases are involved, says Hurrell. In the Atlantic, natural variability affects ocean temperatures more strongly, making it more difficult to attribute changes there to greenhouse-gas effects.

Paleoclimate records show that even greater climate swings have occurred in Africa's monsoons, most likely related to past variations in solar output and in Earth's orbit. "From a paleoclimate perspective, the recent African dryings appear to be neither unusual nor extreme," says Hurrell.

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COUNTERING MISPERCEPTIONS OF U.S. REQUIRES DIALOGUE, RICE SAYS

By Rebecca Ford Mitchell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Countering misperceptions of the United States requires not only doing a better job of explaining what it is America is trying to do in promoting democracy but also keeping the country open to other cultures and conversing with people of other nations, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Interviewed May 27 on National Public Radio, the Secretary said she thinks "there's a lot to be gained from ... getting out and talking to people about their perceptions of the United States, many misperceptions of the United States."

The Secretary also drew a clear connection between U.S. support for democracy and U.S. national security interests: "The link between democracy and security and peace, and the absence of democracy and insecurity and conflict is very clear. Sometimes you have to keep in mind that greater goal in order to get through what are obviously very difficult, turbulent times right now."

Rice acknowledged that some in the Arab world see the United States as hostile and said those individuals must be reminded "that the United States has often acted on behalf of Muslims around the world who were oppressed," including in Kuwait, the Balkans and Afghanistan.

The Secretary also talked about World War II, "when hundreds of thousands of young Americans

who, at 18 and 19 years old, came across the Atlantic and gave their lives" to liberate Europe.



Dr. Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Secretary of State

Building democracy takes a long time, Rice said. "We know because of the hard work that we did in Europe over generations that nobody can imagine war now between Europeans. That wasn't the case when France and Germany emerged out of World War II. But we stayed the course. We built NATO. We helped create a democratic Germany. And, as a result, Europe is a peaceful and prosperous continent," she said.

Japan's success as a stabilizing force in the world, she said, is another example of the changes that

can happen when a country becomes democratic.

"Now, the people in the Middle East are demanding their rights," Rice said, "and they have, in the United States, somebody who supports that just demand." The Secretary said she was not surprised that some resent that the United States did not do so in previous years.

Asked about how U.S. pop culture might affect others' image of America, Rice agreed that "some of the culture is extremely crude, and I would certainly not want it to be thought to be representative of what America is."

She said she hoped that people would see not just the "rougher sides" but, instead, "a little bit more of the heart of America" and the values that are illustrated in the generosity of its people. As an example, Rice talked of the thou-

sands of American youth who volunteer for community service, working with the poor, the young, and the elderly.

"And look at the response of Americans to the [Indian Ocean] tsunami," she said. "In every community and in every neighborhood and in every church, mosque or synagogue, people were raising funds for the tsunami [victims]."

It is by such actions that the people of the United States play a key role in outlining America's image,

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PROFOUND SHIFTS TOWARD DEMOCRACY OCCURRING, USAID LEADER SAYS

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Civil society organizations and political parties that have been repressed are increasingly helping spread democracy in the developing world, says Andrew Natsios, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Addressing USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid May 25 at the National Press Club in Washington, Natsios cited "profound shifts" toward democracy in such countries as Lebanon, Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ethiopia.

USAID is the largest aid agency in the world that supports democratization efforts, Natsios said. Its budget for democracy promotion efforts for fiscal year 2004 was \$685 million, with an additional \$500 million for democratization efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

The agency's democratization objectives include helping countries expand political freedom and competition, promoting justice and human rights through improved rule of law, and strengthening accountability in governance by helping countries establish regulations and judicial systems.

"Development and reconstruction won't work without good governance," Natsios said.

Democratization is most often stalled by "internal resistance to reform" and by governments' inability to absorb reforms, he said.

Thus, USAID's democracy program emphasizes the need for strategies based on individual countries' specific democratization



Andrew Natsios
Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

needs, including at the local level, the Administrator said.

Natsios also called for more U.S. spending on long-term scholarships for future foreign leaders to help build countries' leadership capacity.

USAID's assessment of a country's need for democratization development assistance includes evaluations of:

-- The presence of a "national identity" among citizens and the presence of a constitution;

-- The level of "peaceful competition" among political parties and groups with varying views; multi-party elections; access to and administration of a justice system; checks and balances among the administrative, legislative, and judicial branches of government; the presence of rule of law; and freedom of the press;

-- Efforts to help stop "grand corruption," or corruption that leads to a decline on a country's gross national product (GNP);

-- The inclusion of all citizens in the country's political, social and economic life;

Inclusion involves allowing universal suffrage, "get out the vote" efforts, and decentralizing political power from the national to local levels, Natsios said. U.S. democracy-promotion efforts in developing countries are crucial because "America is no longer threatened by powerful states, but by failed states," Natsios said.

"Bad governance causes failed states," he added.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. WELCOMES NOMINATION OF NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The United States has welcomed the nomination of former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres to be U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

On May 24, Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent Guterres' name to the General Assembly for confirmation to a three-year term, beginning June 15, to head one of the principal humanitarian agencies in the world.

"Former Prime Minister Guterres' stature and experience make him eminently suitable for this important and demanding position," U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said May 25.

"The United States looks forward to continuing its close and cooperative relationship with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under Mr. Guterres' leadership," Boucher said.

Guterres is currently president of Socialist International, an association of over 160 Social Democrat, Socialist and labor parties, and major organizations in 140 countries.

Guterres was prime minister from 1996 to 2002 and was a member

of the Portuguese parliament from 1976 to 1983 and from 1985 to 1995. He was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from 1981 to 1983. He also was a founding member of the 14-year-old Portuguese Refugee Council.



Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
Former Portuguese Prime Minister

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established by the General Assembly in 1950 to help resettle the 1.2 million refugees of World War II. Its original three-year mandate was first expanded to five years and, as refugee crisis mushroomed around the world, extended every five years thereafter. In 2003, the General Assembly removed the time limit on its mandate. Currently, more than 6,100 UNHCR staff are aiding 17.1 million people in 116 coun-

tries. Since it was established, UNHCR has helped more than 50 million people and earned two Nobel Peace Prizes, one in 1954 and another in 1981.

The United States is the single largest donor country to UNHCR, Boucher noted. "We will work with Mr. Guterres to ensure the effective care and protection of more than 17 million refugees and other persons of concern throughout the world," the spokesman said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

NEW WEB TOOL AVAILABLE TO MONITOR NATURAL HAZARDS WORLDWIDE

A new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Web site gives users real-time information they can use to locate natural hazards around the world.

The USGS Natural Hazards Support System (<http://nhss.cr.usgs.gov/>) (NHSS), available on the USGS Web site, is a tool for monitoring and analyzing hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, severe weather, floods, wildfires and tsunamis.

The USGS NHSS offers a one-stop, Web-based portal to current natural hazard information, geospatial data and other data provided directly by expert sources.

Data about global earthquakes, for example, come from the USGS National Earthquake Information Center, weather watches and warnings for North America come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), hurricane tracking points and potential impact zones come from the National Hurricane Center, and data from tide-monitoring buoys come from various sources, including NOAA's National Data Buoy Center.

Text of the USGS press release follows:

**U.S. Geological Survey
Press release, May 24, 2005
[Reston, Virginia]**

Use mice to track wildfires, hurricanes, volcanoes, quakes, tsunamis, and floods

A new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) website supplies users with real-time information to locate natural hazards around the world,

all with the click of a mouse.

The USGS Natural Hazards Support System (NHSS) is a web tool that helps monitor, respond to and analyze hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, severe weather, floods, wildfires, and tsunamis. The site is at <http://nhss.cr.usgs.gov>.

USGS NHSS provides a one-stop, web-based portal to current natural hazard information, geospatial data, and other data directly from expert sources. This web-based synthesis of information provides decision makers and the public with a tool to track numerous natural hazard events across the country and around the world.

"USGS NHSS provides 24/7 access to a variety of dynamic natural hazards information, allowing the public to see what natural hazard events are occurring in near real-time around the world. The wealth of dynamic natural hazards information and geospatial data that comprises the site continues to grow to provide users with more detail," said Jill Cress, USGS scientist and lead of the website.

The website contains dynamic, near real-time natural hazards information from a wide range of sources. For example, global earthquakes with a magnitude greater than 3.0 are being integrated into USGS NHSS from the USGS National Earthquake Information Center; weather watches and warnings for North America are being supplied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); hurricane tracking points and potential impact zones are being supplied by the National Hurricane Center; wildfires are supplied by the National Interagency Fire

Center; and tide monitoring buoys from a variety of sources including NOAA's National Data Buoy Center.

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LIVE 8 CONCERTS TO AMPLIFY PROBLEM OF GLOBAL POVERTY

Philadelphia, Paris and Berlin Among Sites of Free July 2 Event

By Richard Harrington
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, June 1, 2005; C01

Bob Geldof, who 20 years ago put together the famine-relief concerts of Live Aid -- the biggest musical event in history -- yesterday announced that five enormous, free concerts would be held July 2 in Philadelphia, London, Paris, Berlin and Rome.

The extravaganza, which will feature many of the biggest names in pop music, will not be intended to raise funds. Rather, it is aimed at spotlighting the problem of poverty in developing African countries just days before President Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders of five other industrial nations gather for the G8 Summit in Scotland. Accordingly, Geldof has named his event Live 8.

The lineup for the London concert is to include U2, Paul McCartney, Elton John, R.E.M., Sting, Madonna, the Cure, Coldplay, Mariah Carey, Annie Lennox and Velvet Revolver. Philadelphia can expect to see the Dave Matthews Band, Stevie Wonder, Jay-Z, 50 Cent, Bon Jovi, Maroon 5, P. Diddy and a half dozen others. The other European concerts are to feature such stars as Andrea Bocelli, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Duran Duran, Jamiroquai, Youssou N'Dour, Lauryn Hill, Crosby, Stills & Nash, and Brian Wilson.

The main themes of the G8 summit, set for July 6-8, are social, political and economic conditions that have left almost one billion people living in extreme poverty, almost half of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The G8 leaders have it within their power to alter history," Geldof said yesterday in London. "They will only have the will to do so if millions of people show them that enough is enough. We understand precisely what must be done to free the weak, the hungry and the sick from the awful, needless condition of their lives. Now is the time to do it. This isn't about charity, it's about justice."

Details on how to attend Live 8 will be announced next week. Some venues will not require tickets, but those for the London concert, for instance, will be allocated via a text message lottery. The concerts are each expected to draw up to 150,000 people.

In Europe, the concerts will take place in huge spaces designed for public gatherings: Hyde Park in London, Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Circus Maximus in Rome and, in Paris, either the foot of the Eiffel Tower or Versailles. The Philadelphia concert will occupy the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, whose steps were made famous in the film "Rocky." (Elton John will be headlining an AIDS-relief concert at the same location two days later.)

Live 8 organizers had hoped that Washington's National Mall would be the American site, but it was already booked through July 4 for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and other holiday weekend events. A Park Service spokesperson said yesterday that permits must be sought a year in advance of an event's setup date.

Live 8 is, like Live Aid, something of a last-minute venture. Until recently, Geldof had dismissed the

notion of a follow-up to Live Aid and threatened legal action against anyone who attempted to appropriate the Live Aid trademark.

"It was like 'Groundhog Day' for me," Geldof said by telephone yesterday afternoon. Geldof had wanted Washington to be a Live Aid site 20 years ago but ran into similar problems, made more serious today by security issues: "People were very cooperative and we were offered a site in Washington, but it was too small . . . And the police are really strung completely out over Independence weekend, so it was totally understandable."

Geldof said there might be additional concerts in the other three G8 countries -- Japan, Canada and Russia.

As with Live Aid, the Live 8 concerts are expected to be carried globally on television and, this time around, over the Internet via America Online. It's been estimated that the simultaneous Live Aid concerts July 13, 1985, at London's Wembley Stadium and Philadelphia's JFK Stadium (both have since been torn down) reached a worldwide audience of 1.4 million. Those concerts and a concurrent telethon raised \$245 million for famine relief in Africa.

Although Live 8 is not envisioned as a fundraiser, corporate sponsors are being enlisted to defray the expenses of putting on the shows.

Geldof notes that a major difference between Live Aid and Live 8 is the global reach of the Internet. He expects the same level of television coverage this time around, although he said he fears such cover-

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LIVE 8 CONCERTS TO AMPLIFY PROBLEM OF GLOBAL POVERTY

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age "may be more difficult in America, where they've become more politically timid."

"But this is not of the left or right," Geldof insisted. "Can we agree that to die of want in a world of surpluses is not only intellectually absurd, it is morally repulsive? If we can, what's it got to do with left or right? Let's move forward."

The concerts, as well as broadcasts and webcasts, will include informational public-service announcements. "The essential messaging -- Live 8 and why it's called that -- will be done through the press until it becomes a recognizable brand, particularly in America where recognition of G8 isn't so wide," said Geldof, adding that some artists' performances will be supported by documentary footage about Africa and G8.

Geldof, whose relatively modest musical career with a band called

the Boomtown Rats was dramatically eclipsed by his leadership of Live Aid campaigns, was joined in London by Elton John and former French Culture Minister Jack Lang. Geldof said, "We will not tolerate the further pain of the poor while we have the financial and moral means to prevent it."

"We don't want people's money," Geldof added. "We want them."

Where 1985's Live Aid events were largely apolitical, the Live 8 concerts are a starting point for a worldwide campaign called the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. In the United States, it's dubbed ONE, in France, "2005: Plus D'Excuses" ("2005: No More Excuses"). In England, it operates as Make Poverty History, which has announced a march called A Long Walk to Justice. It will set off on the day of the Hyde Park concert from London to Edinburgh (a distance of 413 miles), picking up people along the way and arriving in time for the summit.

Organizers, who have said they hope to get up to a million people to Edinburgh, are calling for complete debt cancellation for African nations, as well as more and better aid and trade terms. There have been reports in the Scottish media of a massive Edinburgh concert featuring Coldplay, Scottish acts Franz Ferdinand and Travis and others. An official announcement about that is expected next week.

Geldof, who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and recognized by Queen Elizabeth II in 1986 for his previous humanitarian efforts, said yesterday that "at the G8 summit, those eight men will have the choice to change the way our world works . . . but they won't unless enough people tell them to. That is why Live 8 is happening."♦

COUNTERING MISPERCEPTIONS OF U.S. REQUIRES DIALOGUE, . . .

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she said. Rice said it is important for U.S. students to learn other languages and study other cultures to further their engagement with the world. Public diplomacy, she said, is not just the responsibility of the government.

"We need to talk to people and we need to listen to them," Rice said, in order to undo misconceptions.

The Secretary said the United States stands for freedom and lib-

erty and the belief that all people wish to be free.

"There is a reason that people come here from so many different cultures, from so many different religious backgrounds, from so many different ethnic groups," Rice explained. "It's because you can come here and be American because being American is an ideal and a state of mind -- not a religious affiliation, not an ethnic designation, not a drop of blood. It's an ideal."

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/46857.htm>) of the Secretary's interview is available on the State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

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NEW STUDY PROJECTS DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, RAIN . . .

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Monsoon rains, critical to life in much of Africa, shift north and south with the seasons. They normally reach the Sahel from July to September and the southern part of the continent from February into April. Low-pressure centers moving west from the Sahel during the monsoon often serve as seed for tropical storms and hurricanes in the North Atlantic. Hurrell's work does not address the possible impact of increased rains in the Sahel on future Atlantic hurricane activity.

For their study, Hurrell and Hoerling examined output from computer models at NCAR, NASA, NOAA, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, and France's National Center for Meteorological Research (CNRM).

NCAR'S primary sponsor is the National Science Foundation. Opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Find this press release and images on the Web at <http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases>

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U.S. WELCOMES AFRICAN UNION-HOSTED DONORS' . . .

(Continued from page 2)

tary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer attended for NATO, as did General Jones, the Supreme Allied Commander of European Forces.

The United States has led international efforts to support peace and humanitarian relief to Sudan. The pledge made in Addis Ababa is part of our very strong and continuing commitment to achieve peace in a unified Sudan. At the Oslo Donors' Conference last month, Deputy Secretary of State Zoellick announced our commitment of \$853 million for Sudan in fiscal year 2005, with an additional \$540 million requested for fiscal year 2006. For Darfur specifically, the United States has pro-

vided \$635 million in humanitarian assistance in fiscal years 2003-2005.

The United States has provided to date nearly \$100 million in assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan. We have taken the lead to encourage the provision of NATO assistance for the African Union expansion. This major initiative will substantially strengthen the African Union operation and help facilitate expansion of the force to 7,700 by the August/September timeframe. We made a strong pledge at the donors' conference in Addis Ababa today. We will provide \$50 million to expand camps for the African Union peacekeepers and to provide logistical support. To support NATO

efforts we will provide airlift for the Rwandan contingent of the expanded force and provide training for African forces planning to deploy. All of this underscores the commitment of the United States to work with the international community and the Sudanese parties to achieve peace in a unified Sudan.

We also welcome announcements by the European Union and Canada of additional assistance to the African Union in Darfur.

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